IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1.   (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium containing executable computer program instructions which when executed by a data processing system cause said system to perform a method to set up software installed on a storage device of the data processing system, the method comprising:

automatically searching in a plurality of locations for a configuration information that includes one or more parameters to configure the software that includes ~~searching for~~determining whether a first portion of the configuration information is at a first location based on a first identification data of the data processing system, wherein the first identification data include first identifications that are unique to the data processing system and second identifications that are not unique to the data processing system, wherein the second identifications have lower priorities than the first identifications in the searching, wherein the configuration information associated with the first identifications is configured to overwrite at least a portion of the configuration information associated with the second identifications, wherein the first identifications include a hardware serial number, an Internet Protocol ("IP") address, a hostname, a hardware address, or any combination thereof, and the second identifications include a subnet mask, a generic identification associated with a plurality of data processing systems, or any combination thereof; continuing the searching in one or more second locations for a second portion of the configuration information based on a second identification of the data processing system; and

configuring the software installed on the storage device of the data processing system for operation of the data processing system according to the one or more parameters contained in the configuration information found in at least one of the plurality of locations.

2.   (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 1, wherein the configuration information comprises:

a decryption key; and

encrypted configuration information decryptable with the decryption key.

3.   (Original) The medium of claim 2, wherein the decryption key and the encrypted configuration information are found in different locations of the plurality of locations

4.   (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium containing executable computer program instructions which when executed by a data processing system cause said system to perform a method to set up software installed on a storage device of the data processing system, the method comprising:

searching in a plurality of locations for a configuration information that includes one or more parameters to configure the software, wherein the searching includes determining whether the configuration information is in a first location of the plurality of locations [[is]] based on a first identification data of the data processing system and wherein the searching in a second location of the plurality of locations is based on a second identification of the data processing system, wherein the first identification data include first identifications that are

unique to the data processing system and second identifications that are not unique to the data processing system, wherein the second identifications have lower priorities than the first identifications in the searching, wherein the configuration information associated with the first identifications is configured to overwrite at least a portion of the configuration information associated with the second identifications, wherein the first identifications include a hardware serial number, an Internet Protocol ("IP") address, a hostname, a hardware address, or any combination thereof, and the second identifications include a subnet mask, a generic identification associated with a plurality of data processing systems, or any combination thereof; and

configuring the software installed on the storage device of the data processing system for operation of the data processing system according to the one or more parameters contained in the configuration information found in at least one of the plurality of locations, wherein the plurality of locations comprise one default location on a storage device attached fixedly and locally to the data processing system, and wherein the searching is performed automatically in response to installing the software.

5.   (Original) The medium of claim 4, wherein the plurality of locations further comprise one location in a removable medium locally attached to the data processing system.

6.   (Original) The medium of claim 4, wherein the plurality of locations further comprise a remote location accessible to the data processing system through a network connection.

7.   (Original) The medium of claim 1, wherein the software is a portion of an operating system of the data processing system.

8.   (Original) The medium of claim 1, further comprising:

determining a plurality of identifications of the data processing system;

wherein said searching uses the plurality of identifications to find configuration information suitable for the data processing system.

9.   (Original) The medium of claim 8, wherein the plurality of identifications comprise one of:

a) a network address of the data processing system;

b) a hostname of the data processing system;

c) a hardware serial number of the data processing system; and

d) a hardware address of a network interface device of the data processing system.

10.   (Original) The medium of claim 8, wherein the plurality of identifications comprise one identification that matches any data processing system.

11.   (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium containing executable computer program instructions which when executed by a data processing system cause said system to perform a method to set up software for the data processing system, the method comprising:

querying a directory server to obtain a configuration information that includes one or more parameters to configure the software, wherein the querying includes ~~searching for~~ determining whether a first portion of the configuration information is at the directory server based on a first identification data of the data processing system, wherein the first identification data include first identifications that are unique to the data processing system and second identifications that are not unique to the data processing system, wherein the second identifications have lower priorities than the first identifications in the searching, wherein the configuration information associated with the first identifications is configured to overwrite at least a portion of the configuration information associated with the second identifications, wherein the first identifications include a hardware serial number, an Internet Protocol ("IP") address, a hostname, a hardware address, or any combination thereof, and the second identifications include a subnet mask, a generic identification associated with a plurality of data processing systems, or any combination thereof; continuing searching in one or more other locations for a second portion of the configuration information based on a second identification of the data processing system; and

configuring the software for operation of the data processing system according to the one or more parameters contained in the configuration information obtained from the directory server.

12.   (Original) The medium of claim 11, wherein the software is a portion of an operating system of the data processing system.

13.   (Original) The medium of claim 12, further comprising:

automatically obtaining a network address and an address of the directory server from a server on a local area network; and

configuring a network interface device of the data processing system to use the network address;

wherein said querying uses the address of the directory server and the network interface device which is configured to use the network address.

14.   (Original) The medium of claim 12, wherein the configuration information comprises one of:

a) user account information;

b) time zone information;

c) keyboard information; and

d) a default language.

15.   (Original) The medium of claim 12, wherein the configuration information comprises information specifying whether one or more services of the operating system shall be provided on the data processing system.

16.   (Original) The medium of claim 11, wherein the configuration information comprises a license key for the software.

17.   (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium containing executable computer program instructions which when executed by a data processing system cause said system to perform a method to set up software installed on the data processing system, the method comprising:

automatically searching for encrypted configuration information that includes one or more parameters to configure the software that includes ~~searching for~~determining whether a first portion the encrypted configuration information is at a first location based on a first identification data of the data processing system; continuing the searching in one or more second locations for a second portion of the encrypted configuration information based on a second identification of the data processing system, wherein the first identification data include first identifications that are unique to the data processing system and second identifications that are not unique to the data processing system, wherein the second identifications have lower priorities than the first identifications in the searching, wherein the configuration information associated with the first identifications is configured to overwrite at least a portion of the configuration information associated with the second identifications, wherein the first identifications include a hardware serial number, an Internet Protocol ("IP") address, a hostname, a hardware address, or any combination thereof, and the second identifications include a subnet mask, a generic identification associated with a plurality of data processing systems, or any combination thereof; and

determining a decryption key to decrypt the encrypted configuration information; and

configuring the software installed on the data processing system using the decryption key and the encrypted configuration information according to the one or more parameters contained in the encrypted configuration information.

18.   (Original) The medium of claim 17, wherein the decryption key is communicated from a remote data processing system to the data processing system, and the decryption key is not stored on a file system of the data processing system.

19.   (Original) The medium of claim 17, wherein said determining the decryption key comprises searching in a plurality of locations.

20.   (Original) The medium of claim 19, wherein the plurality of locations comprise one of:

        a) a removable storage device locally attached to the data processing system;

        b) a predetermined location in a file volume in a file system of the data processing system; and

        c) a database on a remote data processing system accessible to the data processing system through a network connection.

21.   (Currently Amended) A method to set up software installed on a storage device of a data processing system, the method comprising:

automatically searching in a plurality of locations for configuration information that includes one or more parameters to configure the software that includes ~~searching for~~determining whether a first portion of the configuration information is at a first location based on a first identification data of the data processing system, wherein the first identification data include first identifications that are unique to the data processing system and second identifications that are not unique to the data processing system, wherein the second identifications have lower priorities than the first identifications in the searching, wherein the configuration information associated with the first identifications is configured to overwrite at least a portion of the configuration information associated with the second identifications, wherein the first identifications include a hardware serial number, an Internet Protocol ("IP") address, a hostname, a hardware address, or any combination thereof, and the second identifications include a subnet mask, a generic identification associated with a plurality of data processing systems, or any combination thereof; continuing the searching in one or more second locations for a second portion of the configuration information based on a ~~first~~ second identification of the data processing system; and

configuring the software installed on the storage device of the data processing system for operation of the data processing system according to the one or more parameters contained in the configuration information found in at least one of the plurality of locations.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the software is a portion of an operating system of the data processing system.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the plurality of locations are periodically searched.

24. (Currently Amended) A method to set up software installed on a storage device of a data processing system, the method comprising:

searching in a plurality of locations for configuration information that includes one or more parameters to configure the software, wherein the searching includes determining whether the configuration information is in a first location of the plurality of locations [[is]] based on a first identification data of the data processing system and wherein the searching in a second location of the plurality of locations is based on a second identification of the data processing system, wherein the first identification data include first identifications that are unique to the data processing system and second identifications that are not unique to the data processing system, wherein the second identifications have lower priorities than the first identifications in the searching, wherein the configuration information associated with the first identifications is configured to overwrite at least a portion of the configuration information associated with the second identifications, wherein the first identifications include a hardware serial number, an Internet Protocol ("IP") address, a hostname, a hardware address, or any combination thereof, and the second identifications include a subnet mask, a generic identification associated with a plurality of data processing systems, or any combination thereof; and

configuring the software installed on the storage device of the data processing system for operation of the data processing system according to the one or more parameters contained

in the configuration information found in at least one of the plurality of locations, wherein the plurality of locations comprise one default location on a storage device attached fixedly and locally to the data processing system, and wherein the searching is performed automatically in response to installing the software.

25.   (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the plurality of locations further comprise one of:

location in a removable medium locally attached to the data processing system; and

a directory server.

26.   (Currently Amended) A method to set up software for a data processing system, the method comprising:

querying a directory server to obtain a configuration information that includes one or more parameters to configure the software, wherein the querying includes ~~searching for~~determining whether a first portion of the configuration information is at the directory server based on a first identification data of the data processing system; and continuing searching in one or more other locations for a second portion of the configuration information based on a second identification of the data processing system, wherein the first identification data include first identifications that are unique to the data processing system and second identifications that are not unique to the data processing system, wherein the second identifications have lower priorities than the first identifications in the searching, wherein the configuration information associated with the first identifications is configured to overwrite at

least a portion of the configuration information associated with the second identifications, wherein the first identifications include a hardware serial number, an Internet Protocol ("IP") address, a hostname, a hardware address, or any combination thereof, and the second identifications include a subnet mask, a generic identification associated with a plurality of data processing systems, or any combination thereof; and

configuring the software for operation of the data processing system according to the one or more parameters contained in the configuration information obtained from the directory server.

27.   (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the software is a portion of an operating system of the data processing system.

28.   (Original) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

automatically obtaining a network address and an address of the directory server from a server on a local area network; and

configuring a network interface device of the data processing system to use the network address;

wherein said querying uses the address of the directory server and the network interface device which is configured to use the network address.

29.   (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the configuration information comprises information specifying whether one or more services of the operating system shall be provided on the data processing system.

30.   (Currently Amended) A method to set up software installed on a data processing system, the method comprising:

automatically searching for encrypted configuration information that includes one or more parameters to configure the software that includes ~~searching for~~determining whether a first portion of the encrypted configuration information is at a first location based on a first identification data of the data processing system, wherein the first identification data include first identifications that are unique to the data processing system and second identifications that are not unique to the data processing system, wherein the second identifications have lower priorities than the first identifications in the searching, wherein the configuration information associated with the first identifications is configured to overwrite at least a portion of the configuration information associated with the second identifications, wherein the first identifications include a hardware serial number, an Internet Protocol ("IP") address, a hostname, a hardware address, or any combination thereof, and the second identifications include a subnet mask, a generic identification associated with a plurality of data processing systems, or any combination thereof; and continuing the searching in one or more second locations for a second portion of the encrypted configuration information based on a second identification of the data processing system;

determining a decryption key to decrypt the encrypted configuration information; and

configuring the software installed on the data processing system for operation using the decryption key and the encrypted configuration information according to the one or more parameters contained in the encrypted configuration information.

31.   (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein said determining the decryption key comprises searching in a plurality of locations.

32.   (Currently Amended) A data processing system to set up software installed on a storage device of the data processing system, the data processing system comprising:

        means for automatically searching in a plurality of locations for a configuration information that includes one or more parameters to configure the software that includes means for ~~searching for~~determining whether a first portion of the configuration information is at a first location based on a first identification data of the data processing system; and means for continuing the searching in one or more second locations for a second portion of the configuration information based on a second identification of the data processing system, wherein the first identification data include first identifications that are unique to the data processing system and second identifications that are not unique to the data processing system, wherein the second identifications have lower priorities than the first identifications in the searching, wherein the configuration information associated with the first identifications is configured to overwrite at least a portion of the configuration information associated with the second identifications, wherein the first identifications include a hardware serial number, an Internet Protocol ("IP") address, a hostname, a hardware address, or any combination thereof,

and the second identifications include a subnet mask, a generic identification associated with a plurality of data processing systems, or any combination thereof; and

     means for configuring the software installed on the storage device of the data processing system for operation according to the one or more parameters contained in the configuration information found in at least one of the plurality of locations.

33.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 32, wherein the software is a portion of an operating system of the data processing system.

34.   (Currently Amended) A data processing system to set up software, the data processing system comprising:

     means for querying a directory server to obtain a configuration information that includes one or more parameters to configure the software, wherein the means for querying includes means for ~~searching for~~determining whether a first portion of the configuration information is at the directory server based on a first identification data of the data processing system, wherein the first identification data include first identifications that are unique to the data processing system and second identifications that are not unique to the data processing system, wherein the second identifications have lower priorities than the first identifications in the searching, wherein the configuration information associated with the first identifications is configured to overwrite at least a portion of the configuration information associated with the second identifications, wherein the first identifications include a hardware serial number, an Internet Protocol ("IP") address, a hostname, a hardware address, or any combination thereof,

and the second identifications include a subnet mask, a generic identification associated with a plurality of data processing systems, or any combination thereof; means for continuing searching in one or more other locations for a second portion of the configuration information based on a second identification of the data processing system; and

means for configuring the software for operation of the data processing system according to the one or more parameters contained in the configuration information obtained from the directory server.

35.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 34, wherein the software is a portion of an operating system of the data processing system.

36.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 35, further comprising:

means for automatically obtaining a network address and an address of the directory server from a server on a local area network; and

means for configuring a network interface device of the data processing system to use the network address;

wherein said means for querying uses the address of the directory server and the network interface device which is configured to use the network address.

37.   (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 35, wherein the configuration information comprises information specifying whether one or more services of

the operating system shall be provided on the data processing system, and the one or more services comprise one of:

    a) email;

    b) printer;

    c) firewall;

    d) web;

    e) password;

    f) multimedia stream; and

    g) file sharing.

38.   (Currently Amended) A data processing system to set up software, the data processing system comprising:

    means for automatically searching for an encrypted configuration information that includes one or more parameters to configure the software that includes means for ~~searching for~~determining whether a first portion of the encrypted configuration information is at a first location based on a first identification data of the data processing system, wherein the first identification data include first identifications that are unique to the data processing system and second identifications that are not unique to the data processing system, wherein the second identifications have lower priorities than the first identifications in the searching, wherein the configuration information associated with the first identifications is configured to overwrite at least a portion of the configuration information associated with the second identifications, wherein the first identifications include a hardware serial number, an Internet

Protocol ("IP") address, a hostname, a hardware address, or any combination thereof, and the second identifications include a subnet mask, a generic identification associated with a plurality of data processing systems, or any combination thereof; and means for continuing the searching in one or more second locations for a second portion of the encrypted configuration information based on a first identification of the data processing system;

means for determining a decryption key to decrypt the encrypted configuration information; and

means for configuring the software installed on the data processing system using the decryption key and the encrypted configuration information according to the one or more parameters contained within the encrypted configuration information.

39.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 38, wherein the decryption key is communicated from a remote data processing system to the data processing system.

40.   (Currently Amended) A data processing system, comprising:

memory including a storage device, the storage device having installed software;

a processor coupled to the memory, the processor automatically searching in a plurality of locations for a configuration information that includes one or more parameters to configure the software, wherein the automatically searching includes ~~searching~~ ~~for~~determining whether a first portion of the configuration information is at a first location based on a first identification data of the data processing system, wherein the first identification data include first identifications that are unique to the data processing system

and second identifications that are not unique to the data processing system, wherein the second identifications have lower priorities than the first identifications in the searching, wherein the configuration information associated with the first identifications is configured to overwrite at least a portion of the configuration information associated with the second identifications, wherein the first identifications include a hardware serial number, an Internet Protocol ("IP") address, a hostname, a hardware address, or any combination thereof, and the second identifications include a subnet mask, a generic identification associated with a plurality of data processing systems, or any combination thereof; and continuing the searching in one or more second locations for a second portion of the configuration information based on a second identification of the data processing system, the processor configuring the software installed on the storage device for operation according to the one or more parameters contained in the configuration information found in at least one of the plurality of locations.

41.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 40, wherein the software is a portion of an operating system of the data processing system.

42.   (Currently Amended) A data processing system, comprising:

memory storing software;

a network interface device;

a processor coupled to the memory and the network interface device, the processor querying a directory server using the network interface to obtain a configuration information that includes one or more parameters to configure the software, wherein the querying includes

~~searching for~~<u>determining whether</u> a first portion of the configuration information <u>is</u> at the directory server based on a first identification <u>data</u> of the data processing system<u>, wherein the first identification data include first identifications that are unique to the data processing system and second identifications that are not unique to the data processing system, wherein the second identifications have lower priorities than the first identifications in the searching, wherein the configuration information associated with the first identifications is configured to overwrite at least a portion of the configuration information associated with the second identifications, wherein the first identifications include a hardware serial number, an Internet Protocol ("IP") address, a hostname, a hardware address, or any combination thereof, and the second identifications include a subnet mask, a generic identification associated with a plurality of data processing systems, or any combination thereof</u>; and continuing searching in one or more other locations for a second portion of the configuration information based on a second identification of the data processing system, the processor configuring the software stored in the memory for operation of the data processing system according to the one or more parameters contained in the configuration information obtained from the directory server.

43.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 42, wherein the software is a portion of an operating system of the data processing system.

44.   (Currently Amended) A data processing system, comprising:

    memory storing software;

a processor coupled to the memory, the processor automatically searching for an encrypted configuration information that includes one or more parameters to configure the software, wherein the automatically searching includes ~~searching for~~<u>determining whether</u> a first portion of the encrypted configuration information <u>is</u> at a first location based on a first identification <u>data</u> of the data processing system<u>, wherein the first identification data include first identifications that are unique to the data processing system and second identifications that are not unique to the data processing system, wherein the second identifications have lower priorities than the first identifications in the searching, wherein the configuration information associated with the first identifications is configured to overwrite at least a portion of the configuration information associated with the second identifications, wherein the first identifications include a hardware serial number, an Internet Protocol ("IP") address, a hostname, a hardware address, or any combination thereof, and the second identifications include a subnet mask, a generic identification associated with a plurality of data processing systems, or any combination thereof</u>; and continuing the searching in one or more second locations for a second portion of the encrypted configuration information based on a second identification of the data processing system, the processor determining a decryption key to decrypt the encrypted configuration information, the processor configuring the software installed on the memory for operation of the data processing system using the decryption key and the encrypted configuration information according to the one or more parameters.

45.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 44, wherein the processor searches in a plurality of locations to determine the decryption key, and the plurality of locations comprise one of:

a) a removable storage device locally attached to the data processing system;

b) a predetermined location in a file volume in a file system of the data processing system; and

c) a database on a remote data processing system accessible to the data processing system through a network connection.